



Department of Permitting Services
Land Development Division
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WATER TABLE & PERCOLATION TESTS

The Department of Permitting Services water table testing season for 2012 is set to begin.

The tentative dates for the 2012 Montgomery County water table testing season are **February 1 through April 13, 2012**. These dates are subject to change based upon precipitation amounts during the months just previous to the test season.

Water table and percolation tests are required to insure that on-site sewage disposal systems (septic systems) will function properly and not contaminate the underground drinking water aquifer.

A water table test is required for all proposed sewage disposal areas. This test, which consists of single or multiple excavations, determines the presence and depth to any "perched" water tables. Water can "perch" on top of slowly or non-permeable soil layers during periods of normal winter precipitation. These tests help insure that sewage disposal systems are located at least four (4) feet higher in the soil profile than any water table.

Upon the successful completion of the water table evaluation, percolation tests can be conducted to determine the permeability of the soil.

Properties that are existing parcels, exempt from the subdivision provisions of the Maryland National Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will be subject to an application deadline of **Friday April 6, 2012**. Properties that are being subdivided; and other properties that need to be approved under the subdivision provisions of M-NCPPC will be subject to an application deadline of **March 5, 2012**. By this date, application for review by M-NCPPC must be submitted to that agency so that the preliminary **DRC** (Development Review Committee) meeting can take place prior to the end of the water table season. Plans submitted to M-NCPPC after March 5, 2012 are at risk for missing the 2012 testing season.

For additional information please contact the Well & Septic Section at **240-777-6319**.